

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 53

October 2006

No. 8



Calendar

Sat., Oct. 21	Large item pickup		Reception/reading, Ingham book, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see p 5)
Sat., Oct. 28	Pumpkin carving, Penn Place basketball court, 1 pm; Haunting of Porcupine Woods, 7–8:30 pm (see p 2)	Mon., Nov. 13	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sun., Oct. 29	Daylight Savings Time ends 2 am; put clocks back 1 hour	Tues., Nov. 14	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Mon., Oct. 30	Last pickup of yard waste	Thurs., Nov. 16	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 9 pm
Tues., Oct. 31	Schools Halloween Parade, 1:30-ish (see p 5); Trick or Treat night	Sat., Nov. 18	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm (see p 2); last Farmer's Market at Penn Place for the year
Thurs., Nov. 2	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., Nov. 19	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm
Fri., Nov. 3	Film Society, Town Hall, 7 pm: <i>Big Night</i> (see p 5)	Thurs., Nov. 23	Happy Thanksgiving!
Sat., Nov. 4	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm	Wed., Nov. 29	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; topic TBA
Mon., Nov. 6	Monthly yard-waste pickup	Thurs., Nov. 30	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Fri., Nov. 10	Deadline for submission to jobs list (see p 3);		

Council Overcomes Static

The October Town Council meeting, which took place on a beautiful autumn evening, began with the Mayor announcing that on October 31, streets near the elementary school will close at 1 pm for the annual Halloween parade (see Town Administrator Notes, p 3, for street closing details). “We don’t want people rocketing through the parade,” said the Mayor.

The Mayor also informed us that she’d recently been a guest speaker at GPES. Subject: “What One Does When One Is Mayor of Garrett Park.” And the Mayor added that she would be attending the fall conference of the Maryland Municipal League in Annapolis, October 19 to 21, where she would chair a presentation on local government and information technology.

(continued next page)

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Throughout this early part of the meeting, there was a loud staticky sound overhead, and everyone fussed with their microphones to find the culprit. “Could be a weak battery,” said Ted Pratt. “Councilmembers will have to speak clearly for the assembled multitude.”

This statement was ironic, since at this early point there was one person in the audience—M. Soltan, girl reporter.

The loud sound went away when Ted did something offstage, and the meeting proceeded. Peter Benjamin updated us on the capital inventory and progress report. We’ve awarded a contract to an engineering firm to do our capital plan: VIEW Engineering is the name.

Karol Soltan presented the report from the Rights of Way Committee. “It’s time for input from the Council,” he said, “to see if the committee’s on track for something the Council will approve.” Peter Benjamin commented that we need to define what a right of way is, and this definition needs to become part of our ordinances. “Since we could conceivably be taking land from people,” we need to document this with maps. Similarly, Tony Altar said “We need a definition of a parking pod.” As is often the case, the Council at this point talked about the problem of having rules but little or no enforcement of them.

The question of how to deal with damage to or obstruction of streets by residents was also raised. If town property is degraded by homeowners, it should be made clear that fixing it is the homeowner’s responsibility.

Later in the meeting, Peter Benjamin raised the delicious possibility that we might soon be able to call Black Market in advance and arrange a time to arrive—a kind of reservation. But nothing’s final yet.

In the Town Administrator’s report, Ted Pratt said that Butch is doing a lot of maintenance work at Penn Place: power washing, carpentry, etc.

A longish discussion ensued of the post office’s use of a storage room—a room the town would like back—at Penn Place. The post office would like a shed for its use in place of the room, but there’s disagreement about whether we want yet another shed outside Penn Place.

Margaret Soltan

40th Annual Craft Fair

Garrett Park Nursery School’s 40th Annual Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, November 18, and Sunday, November 19, from 10 to 5 at the Garrett Park Town Hall.

This event brings crafters from all over the area in support of our local co-op/parent-run nursery school. The event also features a highly regarded bake sale. Admission is free. For more information, visit the school’s Web site at <http://www.garrettparknurseryschool.org>.

The Haunted Woods ...

Beginning at dark on Saturday, October 28, our own Porcupine Woods will be inhabited by creepy, frightening creatures. Enter ... if you dare! The woods will open at 7 pm, with little goblins admitted first into the “Woods Less Scary.” A hay ride will ferry those who make it through the woods back to the gathering area on the basketball court. The Black Market and the Garrett Park Citizens Association will provide light refreshments for the Haunted Woods.

The fun will begin earlier in the day, with pumpkin carving starting at 1 pm on the basketball court. Bring your own pumpkin, carving tools, and a trash bag. The carved jack o’lanterns will be lit at 6:30 pm to set the scene for the Haunted Woods. Candles will be provided. In case of bad weather, the pumpkin carving will take place at the Town Hall.

Volunteers are needed for these events. If you are interested in adding your frightening touch to the Haunted Woods or otherwise helping with this event, please contact Matt Stavish.

Deterring Vandalism

The Citizens Association hosted a presentation on vandalism last month at Town Hall. Captain Wayne Jerman and Corporal William Preis (who grew up in Garrett Park) offered advice about deterring vandalism. Officer Jerman said vandals are usually young and “home grown.” He said the most effective way to stop vandalism is for the community to “take ownership” of the problem, using their eyes and ears to watch out for neighbors and reporting suspicious behavior. Officer Jerman pointed out that the turnout at the meeting was very small and may indicate that at present the community lacks the interest and energy necessary to address vandalism from within. Citizens are urged to report all suspicious activity and incidents of vandalism to the police non-emergency line at 301-279-8000.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:

www.garrettpark.org/

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Halloween Parade: The Garrett Park Elementary School’s annual Halloween Parade steps off from the school at 1:30 pm. In order to protect the marchers, Kenilworth and Montrose from Strathmore to Oxford will be closed to all but residents from a little after 1 pm until the parade is concluded, probably by 2 pm. Oxford between Kenilworth and Montrose will also be closed. If you plan to watch the parade, please walk, if at all possible, so that congestion in the area can be kept to a minimum.

Leaf Removal: Autumn is fast upon us, and soon the leaves will be falling thick and fast. As before, Bethe Landscaping will be removing leaves for the town, starting the week of October 16 and continuing until December 31. Each street will be cleared once every week, as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the curb. Please remove sticks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Please do not shred the leaves or put out grass clippings. If you have any problems, call the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

Trash Collection after Holidays: The following holidays are observed by our trash contractor: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas. When any of those days fall on a collection day, the missed collection is not made up, and the collection will be on its next normal scheduled day. If a Monday is missed, trash is collected on Thursday, and yard waste and recycling are collected on the next Monday. Missed Thursday trash will be collected on the following Monday.

Yard Waste Removal: Remember, from November to February, yard waste will be collected the first Monday of each month only. That dependable harbinger of spring, weekly collection, will resume in March.

Children and Leaves: Please warn your children not to play in the leaves piled along the street for removal. There is considerable risk of being hit by a car, even on Garrett Park’s quiet streets. If you are driving near a pile of leaves, treat it as you would a ball rolling into the street. Assume a child is nearby and likely to run into the street.

Ted Pratt
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer



Jobs List for Bugle

Some are wishing for no snow, and some are wishing for a lot of snow—regardless, it’s probably coming this winter—so we need names for the snow shoveling and baby sitting list. If anyone (13 years or older) would like to be put on the list, please either e-mail Carol Davies Lillie by November 5, and leave a name, age, phone number, and what job you would like to do. Remember, homeowners, the sidewalks in front of your house are yours to shovel so that pedestrians do not have to walk in the street. They need to be clean (the sidewalks, that is, not the pedestrians) within 24 hours.

Green Again!

We thank again Thomas and Elaine Kennedy for the third installment of their donation towards our green banner. They bailed us out last year and had enough left over for this month’s. Many thanks.

If anyone else can help us, we are funded for the green until April 2007. If you wish to donate in memory or honor of someone or thing, send a check for \$37 made out to the GP Citizens Association to Box 98. Thanks in advance!

Mary Moyer

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Congratulations to our young neighbor for being elected President of the Student Council at Garrett Park Elementary for this school year.
- ♪ A student at the Academy of the Holy Cross had a nice write-up in the *Gazette*. She was the chairperson for National CheerReading Day at the National Mall on September 23. Along with two other local volunteers, she spoke about the importance of literacy, and how to make reading fun for children by cheering them on.
- ♪ Is it just the oak tree in the Moyers' front yard, or are there others around town that seem to be dropping an overabundant supply of acorns this year?
- ♪ Arden Courts, Kensington, is looking for individuals who could provide one-shot educational programs for its residents. These could be ½ to 1 hour presentations about trips with slides or video, or demonstrations of some sort. If you might be interested, call Gordon at 301-493-7881, ext. 207.
- ♪ Martha Seigel's watercolors and Robert LeMar's oil paintings are on exhibit through November 30 at Holy Cross Hospital in the Community Art Gallery on the first floor.

Obituary

Mitzi Rapp

Mitzi Rapp, a 50-year resident of Garrett Park, died on October 11, at the age of 79. She was a stalwart townie, one of the founders (with Barbara Shidler) of the Arboretum, and active in all sorts of other ways in her younger years here.

Legend has it (I've never been able to confirm this absolutely) that she bought the family's house on Rokeby Avenue (after renting two houses in Garrett Park) without telling her husband (my father). He was away at a conference or something, and she couldn't get hold of him, and she didn't want to miss getting the house. Legend has it he didn't mind.

Before she came to Garrett Park, Mitzi had lived all her life in Baltimore, where she was born. She met my father when he was at Johns Hopkins University. When their first child, Barbara, was born, they were living on his pittance as a graduate student there.

When my father got a year-long fellowship in England, she packed up her four small children (one still in diapers) and went to Europe for a grand adventure, spending two months camping on the continent before settling into a big

old house near London. She loved England, and returned when she could.

Mitzi attended what used to be called Mount Saint Agnes College, in Baltimore, before she married. Once her children were older, she went back to school, earning an honors degree in history at the University of Maryland. She was an impressive historian of ancient and medieval Europe.

Aside from spending years walking the streets of Garrett Park with Barbara and thinking about ways to make our spectacular canopy of trees yet more spectacular, Mitzi was very involved with animal rescue—in particular, the rescue of her beloved English Cocker Spaniels. She was a past President of the Mason-Dixon English Cocker Spaniel Club, and the recipient of a number of awards for her dedication to animal welfare.

She was above all, though, an extremely devoted wife, mother, and sister. Her four children—Barbara Roberts of Oneonta, New York; Margaret Soltan of Garrett Park; Brian Rapp of Garrett Park; and Frances Eby of Gaithersburg—survive her, as does her sister, Ronnie Loiederman of Bethesda. She also had three granddaughters.

Margaret Soltan



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A Special Celebration

On Friday, November 3, in the Town Hall, the Garrett Park Film Society will be showing *Big Night* as the final film of the 2006 season. There is no charge for Society members; nonmembers may pay \$5 per person or \$10 per family at the door (drinks and dinner at 7:15, film at 8).

Big Night is about passion, artistic integrity, hope, and ambition, as two brothers—recent immigrants to America—struggle to build a clientele for their restaurant in a small New Jersey seaside town. The movie effortlessly integrates its undeniable love of fine cuisine into a narrative of familial bonds. With great expectations and a commitment to real food, brothers Primo (Tony Shalhoub) and Secondo (Stanley Tucci, also co-directing) open their new Italian restaurant, the Paradise. But across the street, there is another established restaurant, Pascal's Italian Grotto, which caters to the masses by serving up cheap, unimaginative Italian food. But it is flashy and lively, and that is where customers prefer to go. As financial ruin faces the two brothers, they get together with their competitor Pascal and plan a big night, featuring a visit by legendary big band leader Louis Prima, to jump-start the Paradise. Preparing for this event is the centerpiece of the film. Once the party gets going, there is plenty of singing, dancing, drinking, and (of course) eating. The guests at the party add flavor and color to the night's festivities. What ensues is a meal to end all meals, an epicurean blowout. Apart from offering what may be the best advertisement for Italian cuisine in movies, this little picture charms by virtue of its craft and patience. It moves at times more like a European movie than an American one, allowing the characterization to grow on us. The film was selected on many "Best of 1996" lists.

The film is charming, funny, poignant, and mouth-watering. And it lets the simplicity of small flavors—a gesture, a look, a gorgeous platter of vegetables—simmer. Finally, speaking of extraordinary gastronomic creations, we are planning a wonderful locally prepared dinner with "vino" that will take its cue from the film. So come prepared for a special treat!

Don't you wish you could stop time?

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GPES

Beware of goblins, princesses, undersea creatures, and things that go bump in the night. The annual Halloween parade will begin in the school parking lot around 1:30 pm on October 31, if it doesn't rain. The children from Holy Cross Elementary, Day Care, and the Nursery School will join forces with GPES to take a short march around the schools on Oxford, Kenilworth, and Montrose Avenues. Afterwards they will go back to their respective schools for parties. Have some loose change set aside that night, in case some of the 500 UNICEF boxes that were handed out turn up at your front door.

Vision and hearing screening will be held on October 25 and 26 for all students in Kindergarten and grade 4, as well as all students new to MCPS. If you have a student in another grade who you have concerns about, give the school nurse a call, and that child can be included in the screening.

Mary Moyer

Another Author in Town

Ken Ingham invites the town to a reception/reading of his first book, taking place at the Town Hall on Friday, November 10, at 7:30 pm. The book, *Ecoepic & Other Poems*, is being published through Lulu.com. The *Ecoepic* is a rhyming lyrical essay written in four parts. The first, "Evolution of Tumorous Times," covers the big bang, the genesis of life on earth, the rise of *Homo sapiens* as the dominant species, and the effects of its technology on the biosphere. Part II, "Disciples of Gaia," is a fictional account of an uprising by disgruntled environmentalists who have given up hope of working through conventional channels. Part III, "Dawning of the Eighth Day," comprises a lively debate about environmental ethics and the consequences of humanity's attempt to subdue the natural world. Part IV, "Emergence," is a spiritual meditation that progresses into an upbeat quasi-utopian vision of how we might achieve ecological equilibrium (sustainability) on this planet. This is followed by 13 shorter poems that elaborate on similar themes. Excerpts can be seen at www.lulu.com/ingham. The book is available there or directly from the author (cheaper).


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Letter from the Mayor

I always like October, perhaps because it's my birthday month. This October and much of September were busy with meetings. There have been several meetings related to Verizon's efforts to gain a franchise from the county and the various municipalities, including Garrett Park, to provide video. The negotiations have almost been completed, and the County Council is now considering the contract. Once the county agrees to a contract, the municipalities can sign a contract franchising Verizon to operate within them. In a few months, it is possible that Verizon will be advertising its video service here.

In addition to all those meetings and hearings, I have represented the town at Park and Planning sessions on planning for this area for the next 20 years, and I have attended the focus group sessions on maintaining green space down county. I have also been to a meeting with municipalities and Pepco seeking better rates, as well as a session to learn about the new zoning authority that is available to the town as the result of HB 1232 becoming law on October 1. Peter Benjamin and I have met with the engineering firm that will be doing the comprehensive review of the town's infrastructure. Add a few trips to Annapolis, and my calendar has been very full. The most fun event was talking to all the second graders at Garrett Park Elementary school about what a mayor is and does.

One interesting meeting I attended representing Garrett Park was the launch of the Maryland

Health Services "Go Local" Web site. If you are looking for medical information or health services, you can log on to <http://medlineplus.gov/Maryland>. The site has a link to the National Library of Medicine.

Several people have told me that they have noticed that the refuse pickup crew takes their newspapers and cardboard with the trash rather than the recycling. The refuse collection company asks that newspapers either be in the recycle bins or in paper bags next to the recycle bin and clearly separated from trash containers.

I am looking forward to the Garrett Park Land Trust's celebration of the very generous gift by Laetitia Yeandle of her property at the end of Kenilworth Avenue. Laetitia has retained the right to live in the house for 10 years, so we will be able to continue to see her in town.

On October 18, I was invited to a mayor's conference in Annapolis on preserving energy. October 19 to 21 I was also in Annapolis for the Maryland Municipal League's Fall Conference. I was asked to chair the session on municipal technology and, interestingly enough, I was asked to do the blessing for the lunch with the candidates for governor. I hope everyone likes prayers addressed to the Great Spirit.

Being mayor has certainly provided me with a great variety of experiences and a lot of fun. Thank you for all of your help and support.

Carolyn Shawaker